

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 30-45 were pending when the present Office Action was mailed. Claims 6-29 were withdrawn from prosecution pursuant to an earlier restriction requirement. In this response, claims 2, 3-5, 30, 42, 44 and 45 have been amended. In particular, claims 2, 30, 42 and 44 have been amended to change the dependencies, and claim 45 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 6-29, 41 and 43 have been cancelled without commenting on or conceding the merits of the rejections of these claims, and without prejudice to pursuing these claims in unamended or other forms in one or more continuation applications. New claims 46-51 have been added. Accordingly, claims 2-5, 30-40, 42 and 44-51 are currently pending in the present application.

In the Office Action dated October 10, 2008, claims 1, 2, 30 and 41-44 were rejected, claims 3-5 and 31-40 were allowed, and claim 45 was indicated to include allowable subject matter.

As set forth above, claims 1, 41 and 43 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejections of these claims are now moot.

Claims 2, 30, 42 and 44 have been amended to depend from an allowable base claim. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 2, 30, 42 and 44 should be withdrawn.

Claim 45 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the features of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the objection to claim 45 should be withdrawn.

New claims 46-51 depend from allowable base claims. Accordingly, new claims 46-51 are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and patentably define over the applied art. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or

believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 359-6351. Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 645138001US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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